

H.R. 3590 – Sweetheart Deals

A lot of attention has recently been on to the infamous “Cornhusker kickback” and “Louisiana Purchase” associated with H.R. 3590, the Senate version of the health care bill. But did you know that over 10 states receive sweetheart deals in this bill? Below is just a sample of some of those deals if H.R. 3590 becomes law:

Louisiana

- A cryptically written provision to provide an extra \$300 million in Medicaid funding to Louisiana *p. 428, Section 2006*

Florida

- Despite \$120 billion in Medicare Advantage cuts in the bill, certain Florida residents are shielded from these cuts. In December 2009, 57 Senate Democrats voted not to extend this special deal to all Medicare beneficiaries. *p. 878, Section 3201(g)*

Nebraska

- Nebraska will indefinitely receive 100% of Federal Matching Assistance Percentages (FMAP) bonuses for new Medicaid eligibles, making it the only state where the federal government will pay for all new enrollees. The Congressional Budget Office estimated the cost to the federal government for this provision would be \$100 million.
- Exempts Medigap supplemental insurance plans from the new tax on health insurance companies; press reports indicate this provision was inserted to benefit an insurer headquartered in Nebraska. *p. 2395, Section 10905(d)*

Michigan

- Includes language exempting Michigan Blue Cross/Blue Shield from the new tax on health insurance companies, despite an Administration report calling Michigan Blue Cross/Blue Shield's rate increases "disturbing." *p. 2394, Section 10905(c)*

Connecticut

- Connecticut will benefit from a cryptically awarded \$100 million for a "Health Care Facility" at a public research university that contains a state's sole public academic medical and dental school—criteria designed to apply to the University of Connecticut. *p.2354, Section 10502*

Montana

- Makes certain individuals exposed to environmental hazards eligible for Medicare coverage. The definition used in the bill ensures the only individuals eligible will be those living in Libby, Montana. *p.2222, Section 10323*

Congressman Todd Akin's "Quick Takes" are a brief look at an aspect of a current hot topic. March 16, 2010